

## Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EB-07 SP-02 INR-07 ISO-00 /027 W

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R 220942Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

USDOC WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

USINT BAGHDAD

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 2472

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP,SY

SUBJECT: VISIT OF PETER L. SUTHERLAND REGARDING AUGUST ARAB-  
AMERICAN-IRANIAN BUSINESS CONFERENCE IN MAINE

REF: (A) 75 STATE 295849, (B) STATE 80468, (C) DAMASCUS 2291

1. EMBASSY LOOKS FORWARD TO SUTHERLAND VIST MAY 14-18, AS  
OUTLINED PARA 2, REF B. HE SHOULD HAVE CONFIRMED AND  
RECHECKED FLIGHT RESERVATIONS BAGHDAD/DAMASCUS AND CONFIRMED  
HOTEL RESERVATIONS IN DAMASCUS GIVEN VERY TIGHT HOTEL SPACE  
HERE. HE SHOULD ALSO INFORM US IMMEDIATELY OF ANY CHANGES IN  
HIS ITINERARY AS EMBASSY HAS ALREADY INFORMED WIDE RANGE OF  
PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS OF HIS STAY IN DAMASCUS AND  
THE PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT. SUTHERLAND SHOULD CALL E/C  
OFFICERS WRIGHT AND DAVIS IMMEDIATELY UPON ARRIVAL.

2. FYI WHILE WE HAVE NOT MENTIONED EXPENSE PAYMENTS NOTED  
END OF PARA 1, REF B, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO US IF SUTHER-  
LAND VIA A POST HE IS VISITING PRIOR TO DAMASCUS, COULD  
PROVIDE SOME INDICATION OF HOW MANY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HE  
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PLANS TO INVITE FROM SYRIA, PARTICULARLY SINCE GOVERNMENT

IS MAIN BUYER HERE; AND HOW MANY PRIVATE BUSINESSMEN HE PLANS TO INVITE. SUCH INFORMATION WOULD BE HELPFUL TO US IN PREPARING GUEST LIST FOR RECEPTION SUTHERLAND WOULD HOST FOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND PROMINENT BUSINESSMEN. END FYI.

2. AMBASSADOR WOULD BE PLEASED TO MAKE RESIDENCE AVAILABLE FOR RECEPTION WHICH SUTHERLAND WOULD HOST. WE WOULD APPRECIATE SUTHERLAND'S CONFIRMATION OF THIS ARRANGEMENT AND HIS AGREEMENT TO PAY COSTS. REMAINDER OF PROGRAM WOULD PROBABLY INVOLVE CALL ON MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND FOREIGN TRADE, ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS WITH KEY SELECTED SARG DIRECTORS GENERAL, AND CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER COMMENT FROM DEPT OR OTHER POSTS SUTHERLAND HAS VISITED CONCERNING NATURE OF SUBJECT BUSINESS CONFERENCE; WE ASSUME SUTHERLAND WILL BE ABLE TO LEAVE AT LEAST 20 BROCHURES WITH US; WILL CONFERENCE HAVE ENGLISH/ARABIC TRANSLATING FACILITIES; HOW CAN WE ASSIST IN CHOOSING MOST APPROPRIATE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTOR SYRIAN REPRESENTATIVES UNLESS WE KNOW ACTUAL ECONOMIC SECTORS THAT WILL BE REPRESENTED ON US SIDE AT CONFERENCE, ETC. NORMALLY, WE WOULD HAVE EXPECTED TO HAVE RECEIVED FULL AIRGRAM DESCRIPTION OF CONFERENCE FROM STATE/USDOC SO AS TO JUSTIFY OUR OFFICIAL INVOLVEMENT IN PROMOTING WHAT APPARENTLY IS PRIVATE VENTURE BEING HELD AT UNIV OF MAINE. THEREFORE, IN ADDITION, TO INFORMATION CONTAINED IN REFS A AND B, WE REQUEST STATE/USDOC CABLE US COMMENT ON BONA FIDES AND BACKGROUND OF CONFERENCE.  
MURPHY

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**TAGS:** BEXP, SY  
**To:** STATE  
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